THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the announcement made in Budget 2005-06, a High Level Expert Group on Corporate Bond and securitization has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R.H. Patil.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the Committee include identifying the factors inhibiting the development of an active corporate debt market in India, recommending policy actions necessary to develop an appropriate market infrastructure for development of the corporate bond market, recommending specific actions necessary to develop mechanisms for trading platform, clearning and settlement system, risk management and novation, recommending policy actions necessary to develop bond insurance in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Assistance to poor people in rural areas by NABARD

2272. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are programmes and schemes operated by NABARD for providing assistance to the poor people in the rural areas;

(b) the number of people benefited by NABARD's programems in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing more assistance to the rural people particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not disburse agriculture credit directly, it only refinances credit disbursed by lending agencies including Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks. The details of refinance disbursed by NABARD under investment credit during the year 2004-05 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Item	2004-2005
Refinance to Farm Sector	5756.88
Refinance to Non-Farm	2820.59
TOTAL:	8577.46

NABARD has also sanctioned total Short Term (Seasonal Agri. Operation) credit limits aggregating Rs. 10218.97 crore to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the year 2004-05

(b) NABARD has been extending refinance support to lending agencies for programmes and schemes for economic upliftment of rural poor, small and marginal farmers and economically backward people in the rural areas of the country including Maharashtra. The details about some of these schemes and beneficiaries in the State of Maharashtra are as under:-

- During the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 as many as 10470 and 32611 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been provided bank loan amounting to Rs. 43.90 crore and Rs. 109.80 crore respectively.
- Operation of Kisan Credit Card Scheme since August 1998. A total No. 16.66 lakh KCCs have been issued till 31st December, 2004.
- With a view to meet the credit needs of small artisans, small entrepreneurs and service providers, Swarozgar Credit Card has been introduced. As on 31st March, 2005 a cumulative number of 1.79 lakh SCCs have been issued by banks throughout the country.
- NABARD sanctions credit limit to District Central Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural banks for meeting Short Term crop production needs. NABARD has provided refinance assistance to the extent of Rs. 457.69 crore and Rs. 475.88 crore respectively during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 to various banks.
- Assistance to State Government under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for various projects.

(c) NABARD is committed to continue its endeavour to improve the credit flow to the agriculture and rural sector thereby improving the outreach of the rural credit delivery system, besides, supplementing the fesources of the Cooperative Banks, RRBs and Commercial Banks throughout the country including Maharashtra.